

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03927 091405Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CAB-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EPA-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00 SP-02
PM-04 /059 W

-----091406Z 086376 /43

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1404
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. IN COMMONS MARCH 8, PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN SAID HE WOULD REPRESENT "VERY STRONGLY" TO PRESIDENT CARTER THE UNITED VIEW OF THE COMMONS THAT CONCORDE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN NEW YORK. HE AGREED WITH QUESTIONERS THAT A BAN ON CONCORDE WOULD HAVE "AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP" BUT POINTED OUT THAT "OUR RELATIONS ARE FAR WIDER THAN CONCORDE. THAT IS WHY I DO NOT WANT TO BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC DENUNCIATION ON ALL THESE MATTERS." HE ALSO SAID, "IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISFORTUNE FOR THE WORLD'S FINEST AIRCRAFT NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST CITIES. I HAVE INDICATED TO PRESIDENT CARTER THAT WE DO NOT LIKE A VERDICT WITHOUT A PRIOR TRIAL. I SHALL MAKE THAT POSITION CLEAR. BUT THE PRESIDENT DOES HAVE LIMITATIONS ON HIS OWN FIELD OF ACTION AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO WHIP UP A PARTICULAR FRENZY."

2. OTHER REPORTS NOTE THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERN-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03927 091405Z

MENTS AND AIRLINES CONFIRMED MARCH 8 THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO PRESS THEIR COURT CASE ON CONCORDE NOW SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15.

3. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 8 REAFFIRMING HIS VIEW THAT CONCORDE OUGHT TO BE ALLOWED A TRIAL LANDING PERIOD IN NEW YORK RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE AS A POSITIVE

SIGNAL TO THE NEW YORK AUTHORITIES THAT THE PRESIDENT
WANTED THE CONCORDE TEST AT NEW YORK TO PROCEED.

4. COMMENT: IN THE COURSE OF BERMUDA AGREEMENT RENEGO-
TIATION SESSION MARCH 8, LEADER OF UK DELEGATION STATED
THAT THE UK HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTIONS LEADING TO
POSTPONEMENT OF PORT AUTHORITY DECISION AND, IN FACT,
WAS VERY DISPLEASED WITH THE POSTPONEMENT. THIS STATE-
MENT, WHILE IN ACCORD WITH PRIOR STATEMENTS ABOUT FURTHER
DEFERMENT OF CONCORDE DECISION MADE EARLIER BY UK
RENEGOTIATION DELEGATION LEADER, CONFLICTS WITH SOME
PRESS COMMENT REPORTED LONDON 3900 THAT UK GOVERNMENT
"RELIEVED" THAT DEFERMENT HAD REMOVED ONE ISSUE WHICH
COULD HAVE SOURED PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT.

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Message Attributes

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